

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T OSLO 612

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR NATO SP NO

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR NATO NAVAL VISIT TO SPAIN

REF: (A) USNATO 664 (B) OSLO 473 (C) LONDON 1813

1. LONDON 1813 APPEARS TO HAVE SOLVED MYSTER OF WHY BRITISH TOOK SOUNDINGS OF NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS POSSIBILITY OF A 1974 NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO PALMA.

2. TO SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF B, BRITISH EMBASSY COUNSELOR BRITTEN TOLD US ON FEB 4 THAT HE DID IN FACT APPROACH KJELD VIBE, POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO SAID THE NORWEGIAN ATTITUDE IS "UNLIKELY TO BE CHANGED" FROM WHAT IT WAS IN 1973. VIBE DID NOT SAY WHETHER QUESTION HAD BEEN PUT TO PRESENT CABINET, BUT BRITTEN GOT THE IMPRESSION IT HAD NOT BEEN. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, BRITTEN OBSERVED THAT RECENT POLITICAL SHIFT TO THE RIGHT IN SPAIN IS LIKELY TO FURTHER GALVANIZE ALREADY STRONG NORWEGIAN OPPOSITION TO THIS SORT OF PROPOSAL. (COMMENT: AN ANALYSIS EMBASSY FULLY SUPPORTS.)

3. VIBE ALSO TOLD BRITTEN THAT IN 1973 THE US HAD MADE IT "CRYSTAL CLEAR" THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED VISIT TO BARCELONA WAS

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POLITICAL AND THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO NORWAY. WE EXPLAINED

TO BRITTEN THAT RATIONALE BEHIND US DEMARCHES IN 1973 HAD NOT BEEN
SO LIMITED, BUT THAT WE WERE AWARE AT THE TIME THAT NORWEGIANS
CONCLUDED POLITICAL MOTIVES WERE DOMINANT AND HAD ACCORDINGLY
RECOMMENDED TO DEPARTMENT THAT STRONG STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL
ARGUMENTS BE MARSHALLED BEFORE PROPOSAL IS REVIVED. BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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